

What is claimed is:

1. An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to an image pickup

5 signal;

a display device that displays a picked-up image based on the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device;

a selecting device that selects at least one from
10 a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of said display device;

an extracting device that extracts a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting device;

15 a focus adjusting device that carries out focus adjustment on said image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting device;

an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one focus detecting
20 region selected by said selecting device; and

a confirming device that confirms the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using said operating element when a predetermined condition is satisfied,

25 wherein the predetermined condition is that a predetermined time period has elapsed after the photographer instructed to change the at least one

focus detecting region.

2. An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to an image pickup

5 signal;

a display device that displays a picked-up image based on the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device;

a selecting device that selects at least one from
10 a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of said display device;

an extracting device that extracts a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting device;

15 a focus adjusting device that carries out focus adjustment on said image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting device;

an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one focus detecting
20 region selected by said selecting device; and

a confirming device that confirms the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using said operating element when a predetermined condition is satisfied,

25 wherein said image pickup device is capable of picking up the image of the subject with zooming, and the predetermined condition is that a zooming operation

has been started by said pickup device.

3. An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to an image pickup

5 signal;

a display device that displays a picked-up image based on the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device;

a selecting device that selects at least one from
10 a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of said display device;

an extracting device that extracts a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting device;

15 a focus adjusting device that carries out focus adjustment on said image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting device;

an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one focus detecting
20 region selected by said selecting device;

a confirming device that confirms the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using said operating element when a predetermined condition is satisfied; and

25 a recording device that records the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device,

wherein the predetermined condition is that an

operation of recording the image pickup signal has been started by said recording device.

4. An image pickup apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an inhibiting device that
5 inhibits an operation of selecting the at least one focus detecting region by said selecting device during the zooming operation by said image pickup device.

5. An image pickup apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising an inhibiting device that
10 inhibits an operation of selecting the at least one focus detecting region by said selecting device during the recording operation by said recording device.

6. An image pickup apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said display device displays the at least
15 one focus detecting region selected by said selecting device in a manner superimposed on the picked-up image.

7. An image pickup apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said operating element is an operating element selected from the group consisting of a seesaw-
20 type operating element, a dial-type operating element, and a jog-type operating element.

8. An image pickup apparatus comprising:
an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to an image pickup
25 signal;

a display device that displays a picked-up image based on the image pickup signal outputted from said

image pickup device;

an automatic selection device that automatically selects at least one from a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of said display device;

5 a manual selecting device that selects at least one out of the plurality of focus detecting regions according to an instruction from a photographer;

an extracting device that extracts a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus
10 detecting region selected by one of said automatic selection device and said manual selection device;

a focus adjusting device that carries out focus adjustment on said image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting device;

15 a first operating element that enables the photographer to instruct to carry out still image photography;

a second operating element that enables the photographer to instruct to carry out moving image
20 photography;

a recording device that records the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device as a still image in accordance with an instruction to carry out the still image photography given by the
25 photographer using said first operating element and records the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device as a moving image in accordance

with an instruction to carry out the moving image photography given by the photographer using said second operating element; and

5 a control device that provides control to cause said automatic selection device to select the at least one focus detecting region when the photographer has instructed to carry out the moving image photography and cause said second operating element to inhibit recording of the moving image by said recording device
10 until the focus adjustment by said focus adjusting device based on the focus signal extracted from the at least one focus detecting region is completed.

9. A control method for an image pickup apparatus comprising:

15 a display step of displaying, on a display device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

a selecting step of selecting at least one from a
20 plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

an extracting step of extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected in said selecting step;

25 a focus adjusting step of carrying out focus adjustment on the image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted in said extracting step; and

a confirming step of confirming the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one
5 focus detecting region selected in said selecting step when a predetermined condition is satisfied,

wherein the predetermined condition is that a predetermined time period has elapsed after the photographer instructed to change the at least one
10 focus detecting region.

10. A control method for an image pickup apparatus comprising:

a display step of displaying, on a display device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup
15 device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

a selecting step of selecting at least one from a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

20 an extracting step of extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected in said selecting step;

a focus adjusting step of carrying out focus adjustment on the image pickup device based on the
25 focus signal extracted in said extracting step; and

a confirming step of confirming the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the

photographer using an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one focus detecting region selected in said selecting step when a predetermined condition is satisfied,

5 wherein the image pickup device is capable of picking up the image of the subject with zooming, and the predetermined condition is that a zooming operation has been started by the pickup device.

11. A control method for an image pickup
10 apparatus comprising:

 a display step of displaying, on a display device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

15 a selecting step of selecting at least one from a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

 an extracting step of extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus
20 detecting region selected in said selecting step;

 a focus adjusting step of carrying out focus adjustment on the image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted in said extracting step; and

 a confirming step of confirming the at least one
25 focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one

focus detecting region selected in said selecting step when a predetermined condition is satisfied; and

a recording step of recording the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device,

5 wherein the predetermined condition is that an operation of recording the image pickup signal has been started in said recording step.

12. A control method for an image pickup apparatus comprising:

10 a display step of displaying, on a display device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

 an automatic selection step of automatically
15 selecting at least one from a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

 a manual selecting step of selecting at least one out of the plurality of focus detecting regions according to an instruction from a photographer;

20 an extracting step of extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected in one of said automatic selection step and said manual selecting step;

 a focus adjusting step of carrying out focus
25 adjustment on the image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted in said extracting step;

 a recording step of recording the image pickup

signal outputted from the image pickup device as a still image in accordance with an instruction to carry out still image photography given by the photographer using a first operating element and recording the image pickup signal outputted from the image pickup device as a moving image in accordance with an instruction to carry out moving image photography given by the photographer using a second operating element; and

a control step of providing control to cause said automatic selection step to select the at least one focus detecting region when the photographer has instructed to carry out the moving image photography using the second operating element and to inhibit recording of the moving images in said recording step until the focus adjustment in said focus adjusting step based on the focus signal extracted from the at least one focus detecting region is completed.

13. A computer-readable program for causing a computer to execute a control method for an image pickup apparatus, comprising:

a display module for displaying, on a display device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

a selecting module for selecting at least one from a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

an extracting module for extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting module;

a focus adjusting module for carrying out focus
5 adjustment on the image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting module; and

a confirming module for confirming the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using an operating element that enables a
10 photographer to instruct to change the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting module when a predetermined condition is satisfied,

wherein the predetermined condition is that a predetermined time period has elapsed after the
15 photographer instructed to change the at least one focus detecting region.

14. A computer-readable program for causing a computer to execute a control method for an image pickup apparatus, comprising:

20 a display module for displaying, on a display device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

a selecting module for selecting at least one from
25 a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

an extracting module for extracting a focus signal

from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting module;

a focus adjusting module for carrying out focus adjustment on the image pickup device based on the
5 focus signal extracted by said extracting module; and

a confirming module for confirming the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one
10 focus detecting region selected by said selecting module when a predetermined condition is satisfied,

wherein said image pickup device is capable of picking up the image of the subject with zooming, and the predetermined condition is that a zooming operation
15 has been started by said pickup device.

15. A computer-readable program for causing a computer to execute a control method for an image pickup apparatus, comprising:

a display module for displaying, on a display
20 device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

a selecting module for selecting at least one from a plurality of focus detecting regions on a screen of
25 the display device;

an extracting module for extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus

detecting region selected by said selecting module;

a focus adjusting module for carrying out focus adjustment on the image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting module; and

5 a confirming module for confirming the at least one focus detecting region instructed to change by the photographer using an operating element that enables a photographer to instruct to change the at least one focus detecting region selected by said selecting
10 module when a predetermined condition is satisfied; and

a recording module for recording the image pickup signal outputted from said image pickup device,

wherein the predetermined condition is that an operation of recording the image pickup signal has been
15 started by said recording module.

16. A computer-readable program for causing a computer to execute a control method for an image pickup apparatus, comprising:

a display module for displaying, on a display
20 device, an image pickup signal outputted from an image pickup device that picks up an image of a subject and converts the image to the image pickup signal;

an automatic selection module for automatically selecting at least one from a plurality of focus
25 detecting regions on a screen of the display device;

a manual selecting module for selecting at least one out of the plurality of focus detecting regions

according to an instruction from a photographer;

an extracting module for extracting a focus signal from the image pickup signal in the at least one focus detecting region selected by one of said automatic selection module and said manual selecting module;

a focus adjusting module for carrying out focus adjustment on the image pickup device based on the focus signal extracted by said extracting module;

a recording module for recording the image pickup signal outputted from the image pickup device as a still image in accordance with an instruction to carry out still image photography given by the photographer using a first operating element and recording the image pickup signal outputted from the image pickup device as a moving image in accordance with an instruction to carry out moving image photography given by the photographer using a second operating element; and

a control module for providing control to cause said automatic selection module to select the at least one focus detecting region when the photographer has instructed to carry out the moving image photography using the second operating element and to inhibit recording of the moving images by said recording module until the focus adjustment in said focus adjusting step based on the focus signal extracted from the at least one focus detecting region is completed.